

# The West Watch

Neighborhood Group

## ***THE REPORTER***

**NOVEMBER 2010**

Next Meeting will be on January 11, 2011 at 7P.M.  
West End Youth Center

### **UPCOMING EVENT**

**Fri., November 26 through Sat., December 31, 2010**

*The 2010 Holiday Season*

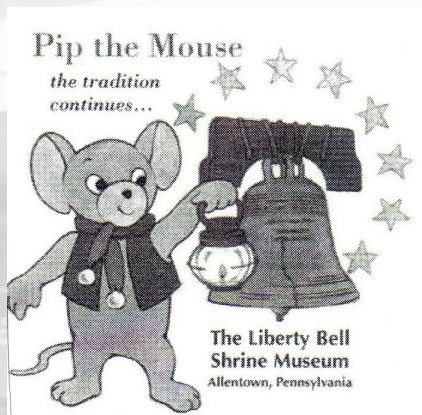
*At the Liberty Bell Shrine Museum*

Starring Allentown's *Official* Mouse, Pip the Mouse

Featuring :Pip: the Mouse Before Christmas"  
Holiday Puppet Show by Dr. George Creegan

Special Holiday Exhibit: "Pennsylvanian German Putzes and Manager  
Scenes", Lehigh County Center Pennsylvania German Putz,  
Pennsylvania German Christ-

And Hess's Toy Soldier



mas Tree by Ann A. Wertman

### **Snow Shoveling Assistance**

If you are physically unable (Elderly or handicapped) to shovel snow from your sidewalks and driveway this winter, the West Watch is offering free assistance. Please call Gerry Alfano at 610-972-4343.

### **Speaker of the Month**

The guest speaker for the October meeting will be Joseph Hanna., Assistant Chief of Police-Operations Speaking on Allentown Police Operations and Policies

## A Word From Our President

Following are ACTUAL comments from convicted burglars from throughout the United States and taken from interviews with security consultants:

"I was able to look at your ""FACE BOOK"" site and read where you told a friend the exact dates you would be out of town. That gave me a lot of time to empty your house"

"Of course I look familiar. I was here last week cleaning yA WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT our carpets, delivering a new appliance or doing other work in or around your home. While I was in your home, I unlatched the back window to make my return a bit easier".

"Yes. I really do look for newspapers piled up on your front porch. Here is a trick of mine. I will leave a "pizza" flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it. Gives me an idea of when you are home and when you are not. CUTE, huh?"

"I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions or offer to clean your gutters, paint your house, anything that sounds legit. Don't take me up on it.....I am not really interested in real work".

"If you don't answer the door when I knock, I will try the door. Occasionally, I'll hit the jack pot and walk right in. To me, it's not an unlocked door...it's an invitation".

"Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never look like a crook".

"I will sometimes break a window to get in. Sure, neighbors may hear one loud sound, stop what they are doing and wait to hear it again. When they don't, they just go back to what they were doing. Its human nature...and the one-sound theory works like a charm".

"There are three (3) things that I really hate in my line of work: LOUD DOGS, NOISY NEIGHBORS and a GOOD SECURITY SYSTEM".

Stop burglars cold. Pay attention to the activities in your neighborhood and report any unusual activities to the Allentown Police Department.

Attend a monthly West Watch meeting. Remember it is your neighborhood and it is your home. Share your concerns about the neighborhood at the monthly meetings with your neighbors.

**WHEN WE VOICE OUR OPINION AND COMMUNICATE OUR CONCERNS, WE CAN MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE *QUALITY OF LIFE* IN OUR COMMUNITY.**



FOR ALL YOUR SECURITY NEEDS  
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL  
SERVING THE ALLENTOWN AREA FOR OVER 40 YEARS  
**15% DISCOUNT TO ALL WEST WATCH MEMBERS**

**FOR A FREE ESTIMATE CALL ANNE GERBER AT  
610/797-7000**

### **LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE**

For all types of insurance, home, life and auto contact:

**FABIAN MORIAH**

**Liberty Mutual Insurance**

**Tilghman Street, Allentown**

**610-398-9800 ext. 51478**

**Fabian.Moriah@LibertyMutual.com**

## Block Leaders

The West Watch Neighborhood Group is looking for **BLOCK Leaders**. The block leaders monitors the activities of their neighborhood and assists residents with solutions. If you are interested in becoming a Block Leader, please contact the President Gerry Alfano at [gfa1westend@rcn.com](mailto:gfa1westend@rcn.com) or attend the next meeting.

## Winterizing Home

### Indoor Winterizing Tasks

- 1. Have chimneys cleaned and inspected.** Blockages and buildup in chimneys can lead to dangerous conditions such as fires and inadequate ventilation.
- 2. Consider a thermal insulating blanket for your hot water heater.** Hot water heaters are often the least-efficient appliance in your home. This is especially true if your tank is stored in an outdoor storage room or garage (as ours is). When temperatures drop the tank has to work extra hard to keep the contents warm. Consider adding a thermal insulating blanket for your hot water heat to insulate the water from surrounding temperatures.
- 3. If your windows are not made of newer insulated glass, consider installing storm windows.** New, energy-efficient windows often have two layers of glass with insulating air in between. Older, single-pane models allow cold air to more easily seep in and make rooms feel cooler.
- 4. Add insulation to attics and crawlspaces.** Inadequate insulation in attics allows heat to rise up and out of your home, forcing heating systems to work harder to keep your home warm.
- 5. [Install a programmable thermostat](#).** Programmable thermostats allow you to automatically create a heating/cooling schedule for your home. At night you can allow inside temperatures to drop down a bit, but warm things up just before the alarm clock goes off. Similarly, you can allow the temperatures to drop inside your house when it is empty during the day, but warm things up before you arrive home from work. Here are some thoughts on the [ideal thermostat setting](#) for winter.
- 6. Arrange for a professional inspection of your furnace.** Just like automobiles require periodic maintenance, furnaces require servicing by a professional. It's worth the cost of a service call.
- 7. If you vacation during the winter months, leave your heat on and set it to 55 degrees.** This will help reduce the chance of interior pipes freezing.
- 8. Install a carbon monoxide detector.** Gas-log fireplaces and furnaces can give off toxic carbon monoxide gases. Follow manufacturer recommendations on placement of monitoring device.
- 9. Install fresh batteries in all smoke alarms.** We change the batteries in our smoke alarms twice a year, around daylight savings time changes. It's a good idea to periodically test alarms to be sure batteries are still working properly.
- 10. Inspect fire extinguishers and recharge if necessary.** Replace any extinguishers older than ten years.
- 11. Insulate water pipes that may be exposed to freezing temperatures.** If water in pipes freezes, chances are the expansion will cause them to burst and you'll be stuck with a huge bill from a plumber.
- 12. Bleed the valves on any hot-water radiators.** Open slightly until water appears and close again.
- 13. Be sure there are no flammable materials stored close to your furnace.** This one seems obvious, but many fires are started during the winter months because of flammable items being near furnaces.
- 14. Stock up on firewood.** Store it at least 50 feet away from your home to prevent fire and termites from coming too close to your home.

## Update Your E-Mail

The West Watch will be launching a new website and a new e-mail system in a few weeks. So, it's a good time to send us your e-mail address or update it if you've switched to a new system yourself. Send an e-mail to [president@thewestwatch.org](mailto:president@thewestwatch.org) and put New E-mail Address in the subject line.

## *CONTACT US*

### Website:

**www.TheWestWatch.org**

<b>Gerry Alfano</b>	<b>President</b>	gfalwestend@rcn.com
Pam Palmer	Vice President	pamp@TheWestWatch.org
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Anne Gerber	Board Member	Anne@protectalarms.com
Kathryn O'Keefe	Board Member	kathrynokeefe@rcn.com

☐

**YES!!** I am very pleased with the work that the West Watch Neighborhood Group is doing and I would like to make a donation to support their many efforts such as the newsletter, meetings, and community events

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**SORRY.** I am not able to help the West Watch Neighborhood Group with a financial contribution at this time but I would like to help in other ways. Please contact me with how I can help.

You can make your check or money order payable to:

**The West Watch Neighborhood Group**

& Send it to:

**3140B Tilghman St. #243  
Allentown, PA 18104**

Thank you for your support!

### **West End Youth Center Bingo**

Come join the fun and prizes at the West End Youth Center Bingo night every Monday night at 6:45.

### **West End Watch Group Web Site**

**Watch for the updated West Watch Web site now under construction and coming in August**

### **WEST WATCH SPONSOR of THE REPORTER**

**Become a WEST WATCH SPONSOR of THE REPORTER. Please call 610-972-4343 for additional information.**

### **Numbers To Know**

<b>Police—Fire—Ambulance</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>Police Non-Emergency</b>	<b>610-437-7751</b>
<b>Police—Vice Unit</b>	<b>610-437-7226</b>	<b>Mayor Pawlowski</b>	<b>610-437-7546</b>
<b>Noise Complaint</b>	<b>610-437-7751</b>	<b>Street Lights</b>	<b>610-437-7735</b>
<b>Weeds/Overgrown Grass</b>	<b>610-437-8729</b>	<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>610-437-7535</b>
<b>Graffiti Removal/Recycling</b>	<b>610-437-8729</b>	<b>Sweep Program</b>	<b>610-437-8729</b>
<b>Vacant Property Issues</b>	<b>610-437-7694</b>	<b>Zoning Violations</b>	<b>610-437-4360</b>
<b>Neighborhood Disputes</b>	<b>610-437-7616</b>	<b>Parking Authority</b>	<b>610-437-7751</b>